Indian companies, there is no objection to Indian nationals having trade relationship with Taiwan. Taiwanese vessels are, therefore, permitted to be chartered by Indian companies. However, it is not a fact that all the deep sea fishing vessels chartered by Indian companies are Taiwanese.

Reduction in the number of workers in the Geological Survey of India

*68. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Staff Inspection Unit of the Finance Ministry recommended in 1982 reduction in the number of workers of the drilling department of the Geological Survey of India;

(b) whether the Geological Survey of India employees union has been protesting against this reduction; and

(c) whether Government propose to refrain from implementing the Staff Inspection Unit recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c). The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance submitted a report in October, 1982 recommending staffing norms for the major part of the Drilling Wing of the Geological Survey of India (GSI). Based on these staffing norms, surplus in some categories of staff and deficit in one category have been identified.

The Geological Survey of India Employees' Association have represented that about 400 employees of GSI would face retrenchment on account of implementation of SIU report and that a fresh study by the Departmental Work Study Unit should be undertaken before the implementation.

The guidelines circulated by the Department of Science & Technology, dated 28th December, 1983, indicated that the functions of the Staff Inspection Unit, in respect of Scientific Departments, be entrusted to a team appointed by the Head of the respective S & T Department consisting of the Core Member of the Staff Inspection Unit (Ministry of Finance) and Scientific/Technical personnel from the concerned Department/Agency. The Ministry of Finance had also desired that such a team be formed. DG, GSI has constituted such a team on 18th July, 1985 under the Director (Personnel), GSI to which a Joint Director of the SIU has been nominated as Core Member from the Ministry of Finance. Their report is awaited.

Steel Plant at Chandrapur in Maharashtra

*69. SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated quantity of iron ore available in Chandrapur or Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra;

(b) what steps Government propose to take for extracting iron ore and for the establishment of mines in these districts; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a steel plant during the Seventh Five Year Plan period in Chandrapur or any other district of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Estimated reserves of iron ore in the erstwhile Chandrapur District (now bifurcated into two districts, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur) in Maharashtra are about 162 million tonnes.

(b) Central Government does not propose to establish iron ore mines in these districts.

(c) No, Sir.